

The David Ackerman House
415 East Saddle River Road
Ridgewood, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-155

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The David Ackerman House
415 East Saddle River Road
Ridgewood, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: John B. Woodward, Archt.,
~~Hotel Barnum,~~
~~Bridgeport, Connecticut.~~

Occupant: ~~William H. Bertholf~~ JOHN B. WOODWARD (1946)

Date of Erection: 1724-1732

Architect: Unknown

Builder: David A. Ackerman (1684-1760) original
owner

Present Condition: Well maintained as restored
by present owner

Number of Stories: One and one-half over cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - brown sandstone

Exterior walls - rubble sandstone
except coursed ashlar west gable
end facing highway; frame above
eaveline

Interior walls - frame partitions,
plaster

Chimneys - brick, built into inside
of gable end walls

Roof - gable and rear leanto, modern
wood shingled. Dormer windows in
roof are probably additions

Historical Data:

The following information relative to
the identification of this house by discovery
of the name of its original owner as above stated
and of the succeeding owners and occupants, is
derived from a search of the property title as
recorded in the County archives. It serves to
establish the facts in the face of mere tradition

and unwarranted assumption which appear in published accounts of this house and its successive owners.

It may be stated at once in contradiction to the essentially genealogical account compiled by Miss Bailey,* that the fabric of this house does not show any evidence for the statement that one-half is older than the other. Its unity is clearly apparent in the twin windows and doors of the front, in the absence of any wall dividing the fully-excavated cellar of the house (excluding the rear lean-to), and in the presence of a frame partition to form the two main rooms in this otherwise masonry structure.

The title has been traced back to that David Ackerman Sr. (a) of Paramus, Bergen County, who by his will dated 13 May 1760 and proved 25 November following, devised to his son Garret "the farm I live on", requiring him to give half the produce thereof to his mother; to his other children, Abram, David, and Lawrence Ackerman, Jannetie Van Voorhis and Aeltje Van Blerkum, his movable estate; and appointed son David and son-in-law Jacobus Van Voorhis executors. (b)

Footnotes:

* R. F. Bailey, Pre-Rev. Dutch Houses and Families, 1936, p. 272.

(a) David A. Ackerman, b. at Bergen, N.J., and bap. there 11 May 1684, eldest of 13 chldn. of Abraham D. Ackerman and wf. Aeltje Van Laer (who came thence to Hackensack 1696; house surveyed as NJ-7), d. 1760 at Paramus, having mar. 20 Sept. 1707 at Hackensack Margrietje Jurcks, of same place, b. Phillipsburg, N.Y., d. after 1760, and had issue viz. Abraham; Johannes (d. 1751 Paramus) and Garret (both bap. 21 Oct. 1711 at Hackensack; Jannetje b. Hackensack, mar. 22 Sept. 1732 Jacobus Van Voorhis; and Aeltje mar. 14 Jan. 1743 Hermanus Van Blerkam of Paramus; all 7 (except Johannes) as named in the will of their father, dated 13 May 1760, Paramus. (Wm. Nelson, Hist. City Paterson and Co. Passaic, 1901, pp. 335 and 336. Holland Soc. N.Y., Register of R.D. Church of Hackensack 1686-1800, publ. 1891).

(b) Abstracts of Wills, publ. in N.J. Archives XXXII, 6 and XXXIII, 7.

The date of removal of this David A. Ackerman from Hackensack some eight miles northward to Paramus (now Ridgewood) was evidently between 8 Nov. 1724, the date of baptism of his son Lourens at the Hackensack Church, and 22 September 1732, the date of marriage of his daughter Jannetje, in the record of which she is described as born at Hackensack and now living at "Peremes". Similarly his son Johannes is described in the record of his marriage to Rachel Zabriskie on 13 January 1739, and his daughter Aeltje in that of hers to Hermanus Van Blerkum on 14 January 1743. The father, David A. Ackerman and his wife returned to Hackensack as witnesses at the baptism of his brother Gelyn Ackerman's son David on 14 October 1733, after which date their names do not appear in the register of that church, nor in that of the Paramus church either. It may be noted that his brother Johannes A. Ackerman also removed from Hackensack to Paramus, and died there 18 June 1760, his brother Gerret A. to Saddle River nearby and died 1758-1762.

Garret D. Ackerman(c) who thus succeeded to the paternal farm at Paramus in 1760, evidently continued residence thereon, and by his will dated Paramus 14 August 1773 and proved 28 February 1774,

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(c) Garret D. Ackerman, bapt. 21 Oct. 1711 at Hackensack, d. 1773-74 at Paramus, a son of David A. Ackerman and wife Margrietje Jurcks of same places, having mar. about 1740 Lena Van Voorhees, bapt. 20 May 1722 at Hackensack, a dau. of Jan Albertse Van Voorhees and wf. Elisabeth Adamse Van Norden of Hackensack, later of Wyckeff, Franklin Township, same county, and had issue: Margrietje bp. 4 Jan. 1741 at Hackensack, David of whom further, Albert bp. 2 Aug. 1747 Hackensack Lysbeth bp. 27 Aug. 1749 at Paramus, Jannetje bp. 12 May 1751, Johannes bp. 3 June 1753, Abraham bp. 3 Sep. 1759, Abigail bp. 20 Dec. 1761, Jacobus bp. 15 Apr. 1764 there, and Gerret. (Wm. Nelson cited above. Holland Soc. N.Y., Register of Ref. Dutch Ch. of Hackensack, 1891, Randolph and Rankin, Paramus Ref. Dutch Ch., 1935).

after providing for his wife Lena the use of his estate, devised to his eldest son John three pounds for his birthright, to his son David "my old plantation where I dwell" (excepting three acres* "out of the old place", on the "south side of my lot near the Kings Road", to his son Jacobus), David to maintain his uncle Laurens Ackerman and brother John Ackerman if necessary. To sons Johannes, Gerret and Abraham he devised divisions of his land on the plain lying on the west side of Saddle River, and the woodland along the brook, to son Albert ten pounds, son David the "place in the church^(d) where he now sits", and likewise seats there to daughters Grietie and Elizabeth. A daughter Abigail unmarried is mentioned and an estate from testator's deceased father-in-law, "if it come in from Wykof," to be divided among all the children.^(e)

Since this Gerret D. Ackerman had children baptized at Hackensack 1741 and 1747 and the next six at Paramus from 1749 to 1764 it appears that he did not remove from the former place to the latter until 1748, and then probably to live with his aged father.

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(d) The Reformed Dutch Church of Paramus, founded before 1725; first building erected 1735; records of baptisms from 1740 and of gravestones published 1935.

(e) The will of Jan Van Voorhees of Paramus, Bergen Co., 1 Feb. 1757, pr. 23 Sept. 1767, devised a share of his personal estate to dau. Lena Ackerman. See abstracts of wills, publ. in N.J. Archives XXXIII, 9 and 455.

* Probably the Van Emburgh homestead still standing next south of the house here considered, on the north side of Paramus Road as it turns to descend to Saddle River. A house at that site is indicated, without name, on Erskine's map 1778-79, printed by the Bergen Co. Hist. Soc. 1921.

David G. Ackerman(f) to whom was thus devised the paternal homestead in 1773, evidently occupied it and by his will dated 15 May 1822 and proved 1st August 1831, in which he describes himself as of Harrington Township, (g) Bergen County devised to his wife Altye during her widowhood the use of "all my farms on which my four sons live namely Garret, Albert, John and Abraham, "together with one Room in my dwelling house in which I now live". To his son Garret D. Ackerman he devised "All that place or farm on which he now lives," in Franklin Township, bounded east by Saddle River, south by John A. Ackerman and the road to Paramus, west by Henry A. Hopper, and north by lands of John Van Dalsen and Thomas Blanch, Jr.

To his son Albert D. Ackerman, he left "the place or farm on which he now resides," in Harrington township, bounded east by Saddle River, south by Henry D. Terhune, west by Jacob Debaune, and north by Henry D. and Harman Terhune.

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(f) David Gerritse Ackerman, born May 8, 1744, d. 8 July 1831 aged 87 yrs. 2 mos. per gravestone in Paramus Chyd., eldest son of Garret D. Ackerman and wife Lena Van Voorhis of Hackensack and Paramus, mar. Aaltje Terhune who d. 23 May 1837 aged 82-1-10, and had issue: Gerrit bp. 4 Sept. 1774, Albert bp. 19 Nov. 1780, John bp. 20 July 1783, Elisabeth bp. 14 May 1786, Elisabeth bp. 13 Sept. 1790 and Abraham bp. 9 Feb. 1794, all per register of the R. D. Ch. of Paramus. (Randolph and Rankin, Paramus R. D. Ch. Baptisms 1740-1850 and gravestone inscriptions, publ. 1935).

(g) Harrington Township separated from Hackensack Twp. 1775, incorporated 1798, part set off to form Washington twp. 1839, 1840 and 1845, Delford 1894 Eastwood 1894, Schraalenburgh 1894, Old Tappan 1894, Closter 1903, Demarest 1903, Alpine 1903, Haworth 1904, Harrington Park 1904 and Norwood 1905. The population in 1820 was 2296. (N.J. Dept. of State: Compendium of Censuses 1726-1905, p. 13).

To his son John D. Ackerman he left the "place or farm on which he now resides", in Harrington township, bounded west by Saddle River, north by Garret Zabriskie, east by Wortendyke, and south by Henry Hopper and Abraham Van Riper.

Finally, the testator David G. Ackerman devised to his son Abraham D. Ackerman "my homestead farm on which I now live" in Harrington township, bounded west by Saddle River, north by Thomas Blanch Jr. and Henry A. Terhune, east by John H. Van Emburgh and south by lands of Cornelius J. Bogert and said Van Emburgh and "tho Road leading to Hackensack," with everything thereunto belonging, excepting one room of my dwelling house bequeathed to my wife."

"All the above named four farms devised to my four sons containing each Sixty-five acres be the same more or less".

To his daughter Elizabeth, wife of John I. Van Buskirk, he devised \$1100 to be paid by the four sons, and all personal estate after the death of his widow. The four sons were named executors.*

Abraham D. Ackerman(h) to whom was thus devised the paternal homestead farm of 65 acres

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* Bergen County Will Book D, p. 107.

(h) Abraham D. Ackerman, b. 30 Jan. and bap. 9 Feb. 1794 at Paramus, d. 1869-1870 there in Washington Twp., youngest of the four sons of David G. Ackerman and wife Aaltje Terhune. By his wife Rachel, he had children, all bap. at Paramus Ch., David A. b. 30 Nov. 1819, d. 1855-56; Eliza b. 2 Sep. 1821, wife of John C. Haring; Abraham b. 25 Aug. 1823, d. after 1869; Charity Ann b. 18 Mar. 1829, wife of Henry Van Emburgh; and Catharine Maria b. 12 Apr. 1834, wife of Albert C. Haring.

In his will dated 12 Feb. 1869 and proved 14 Apr. 1870, Abraham D. Ackerman of Washington Twp., devised his personal estate and the use of all real estate to his wife Rachel, and upon her death the same to John

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in 1822, came into possession in 1831 but sold thereof a 3.06 acre lot on which stood the house here considered. Thus, by deed of 7 September 1855, Abraham D. Ackerman and wife Rachel, of Washington Township,* conveyed to Garret G. Banta of same place for \$1400 two adjacent lots there. The lines of the first of these are described as

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(h) continued

Jacob and Rachel Ann, the children of his deceased son David Ackerman, and a 3 acre lot "being the most south eastern part of my farm". To his dau. Eliza wife of John C. Haring, he devised the "north side of my farm," beginning at N.W. cor. of Garret G. Banta at Saddle River, thence E. along his lines to the N.E. corner of his land, thence E. with a course of his north line east of the road 5.4, thence N. 6.17 to the S.E. cor. of land of John C. Haring, thence along his W. line to the S. line of land late of Hassel Garrison decd., thence W. along that line to Saddle River. Also to said dau. a lot between said Haring and Jacob C. Van Emburgh, she to maintain his son Abraham Ackerman. To his dau. Charity Ann wf. of Henry Van Emburgh, he devised 4 acres of woodland on the Island lot and to dau. Catherine Maria wf. of Albert C. Haring the remaining 18 acres thereof, she to maintain his son Abraham. The balance of his lands he left to the dau. Charity Ann. (Bergen Co. Will Book K. p. 86).

* Washington Twp. incorporated 1840 from Harrington Twp. and part of it included in village of Ridgewood, incorp. 1894.

beginning at the junction of the main Paramus Road and the road leading along the east side of Saddle River brook, being the southwest corner of the lot, thence S $70\frac{1}{4}$ E 1.43 to the S.W. cor. of the homestead lot of Jacob D. Van Emburgh, N. 17 E 1.97 to the N.W. corner of his lot, S. $70\frac{1}{4}$ E. 4.80, N. $19\frac{1}{4}$ E. 4.51, N. $75\frac{3}{4}$ W. 7 to the middle of the road last aforesaid, along same S. $10\frac{1}{4}$ W. 4.10 to the N.E. corner of the lot of David A. Ackerman,* and S. 12 W. 1.71 to the place of beginning, containing 3.06 acres. The second lot conveyed, 3.94 acres, is described as extending from the center of said East Saddle River Road westward 5.9 chains to Saddle River, and lying directly across that road from the first lot. Having thus sold the old house in 1855, Abraham D. Ackerman, lived elsewhere on the farm, as appears in his will abstracted in note (h).

The subsequent transfers of this house appear on record as follows:

20 April 1859: Garret G. Banta and wife Charlotte, of Washington Twp. to Henry B. Hall of same place, \$1700, same two lots abovesaid, subject to \$1200 mortgage held by Jacob Carlock.

7 May 1861: Abram Van Houten and wife Maria of Ramapo Twp., Rockland Co., N.Y., to David B. Naugle of Washington Twp., Bergen Co., N.J., \$1900, same two lots.

1st May 1891: Estate of David B. Naugle decd., by master in Chancery, to John D. Naugle of New York City, \$1475, highest bidder at public sale decreed by Court in suit of David D. Naugle vs. Sarah Naugle et al., same two lots in Washington Twp.

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* By deed of 18 Jan. 1842, testator and wife Rachel, of Washington Tp., conveyed to their son David A. Ackerman of same place a $1\frac{3}{4}$ acre lot extending westward along the north side of Paramus Road from E. Saddle River Road to Saddle River, on which lot stood a blacksmith shop.

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3 May 1921: Heirs of John D. Naugle
decd., late of N.Y.C.,
to Louise E. Tatosian of
the village of Ridgewood,
Bergen Co., N.J., same two
lots in said village.

1st June 1925: Louise E. Tatosian and
husband Alexander, of
Ridgewood, to John B. Wood-
ward of Newark, N. J., part
of first lot, 234 feet front-
age on east side of East
Saddle River Road in Ridge-
wood.

Mr. Woodward remained as owner of this
house at the time of our survey thereof in 1935,
he being an architect residing in Bridgeport, Ct.,
who has restored the property to approximately
original condition. William H. Bertholf is the
present tenant, 1941.

Reference:

A search of title in land and probate
records of Bergen County by the
undersigned

Lewis D. Cook
Supervising Historian 27 January 1942

Approved:

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer